



The Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists

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Written Testimony of
Donna M. Sanchez, MS, CRNA, APRN
Chair, Government Relations Committee
Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists

RE: Proposed Bill No. 6025, An Act Allowing Medical Assistants to Administer Medication Under Supervision

Senator Gerratana, Senator Somers, Representative Steinberg, Rep. Srinivasan and the distinguish members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Donna Sanchez. I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) and an Advanced Practiced Registered Nurse (APRN). I serve as Government Relations Chair for the Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists (CANANA) and I am writing in support of Proposed Bill No. 6025 with additional language.

CANANA has had the honor of participating in the last few years on work groups and a scope of practice review committee related to medical assistants desire to expand their scope. Furthermore, CANANA has supported a previous bill, SB 981 from the 2016 legislative session, which allowed medical assistants to administer medications under supervision.

As HB 6025 is currently drafted, CANANA would like to ensure certain language be added that will ensure the publics' safety such as medical assistants would be prohibited from administering any anesthetic agents, all controlled substances, and medications through intravenous injections. CANANA would farther recommend that medical assistants be limited to their practice locations as discussed in previous years with their Scope of Practice Review Committee; this legislation should prohibit medical assistants from administration of medication in inpatient clinics, hospital emergency departments, ambulatory surgical centers or during routine surgical procedures in an outpatient clinics or physicians' office.

Finally, during the scope review process, it was noted in the final report there is currently no mandatory education certification requirements for medical assistants in Connecticut. CANANA would support mandatory certification, which would ensure that medical assistants who administer medications have met the same minimum qualifications. This translates to safe practice and improved safety for the residents of Connecticut.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this proposed bill and for the opportunity to participate in the previous years work groups related to medical assistants expansion in scope of practice.

Sincerely,

Donna M Sanchez, MS, CRNA, APRN